

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 SIG-03 SSO-00 INRE-00  
NSCE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00  
FMC-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 L-03  
PA-02 ICAE-00 /084 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HAMBURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD; BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, XG, JA

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SUBJECT: US-CONSULTATIVE SHIPPING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT AGREED TO BY BOTH SIDES  
AT CONCLUSION OF MAY 30-JUNE 1 TALKS BETWEEN U.S. AND  
CONSULTATIVE SHIPPING GROUP:

QUOTE - REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONSULTATIVE SHIPPING

GROUP AND THE UNITED STATES MET IN WASHINGTON FROM MAY 30 TO JUNE 1 TO REVIEW RELATIONS IN THE LINER SHIPPING FIELD BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CSG MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE CONSULTATIONS AROSE OUT OF GROWING CONCERN ON THE PART OF CSG GOVERNMENTS, THEIR SHIPOWNERS AND SHIPPERS, ABOUT US REGULATION OF LINER CONFERENCES; AND OF DISSATISFACTION ON THE PART OF THE US ABOUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE REACTION OF CSG GOVERNMENTS TO US REGULATORY PROCESSES. THEY WERE HELD AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE FORTHCOMING US REVIEW OF MARITIME POLICIES. THE DELEGATES DISCUSSED THE LAWS AND POLICIES AFFECTING SHIPPING OF THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AND THE JURISDICTIONAL AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES RESULTING FROM VARIOUS DIFFERENCES.

THERE WAS AN INITIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INFORMATION ON THE MAIN ASPECTS OF LINER CONFERENCE OPERATION AND REGULATION. THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE COVERED:

- DIFFERING CONCEPTS OF JURISDICTION AND THE US REGULATORY PROCESSES;

- POSSIBLE FORMS OF LINER CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION;

- DIFFERING CONCEPTS REGARDING DISCRIMINATORY AND UNFAIR PRACTICES IN LINER SHIPPING;

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- METHODS OF ENSURING THAT SHIPPER AND CONSUMER INTERESTS ARE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED IN THE CONFERENCE SYSTEM;

- PROBLEMS OF ACCESS TO DOCUMENTARY INFORMATION;

- POSSIBLE MULTILATERAL PROCEDURES FOR AVOIDING JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTES AND SOLVING COMMON PROBLEMS.

IN THE COURSE OF THESE EXCHANGES, IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT CONFERENCES WERE ACCEPTED UNDER THE EXISTING LAWS OF ALL COUNTRIES CONCERNED. BOTH SIDES ALSO RECOGNIZED THE INTERNATIONAL NATURE OF SHIPPING OPERATIONS AND THE DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTES. THE US REPRESENTATIVES INFORMED THE CONSULTATIVE SHIPPING GROUP THAT THEY HAD EMBARKED UPON A REVIEW OF US SHIPPING LAWS AND POLICIES AND WOULD GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE REPRESENTATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE.

THE REPRESENTATIVES, AWARE OF THE DESIRABILITY OF IMPROVING SHIPPING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US ON THE ONE HAND AND CSG COUNTRIES ON THE OTHER, AGREED THAT THE

DIALOGUE WAS VALUABLE AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED. TO THIS  
END, A WORKING GROUP, WHICH WOULD MEET AS SOON AS  
PRACTICABLE, WOULD EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON DEFINITIONS  
OF MALPRACTICES, REPRESENTATION OF SHIPPER INTERESTS,  
METHODS OF ORGANIZING SHIPPING CONFERENCES AND POSSIBLE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATION PROCEDURES. THE DELEGATES  
FURTHER AGREED THAT FOLLOWING SUCH A WORKING GROUP  
MEETING, A FURTHER MEETING AT THE LEVEL OF THE PRESENT  
MEETING MIGHT BE HELD IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1978.  
UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT BELIEVES ABOVE STATEMENT IS AN  
HONEST REFLECTION OF THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS.  
WHILE NEITHER SIDE MADE DEFINITIVE COMMITMENTS, OTHER THAN  
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TO AGREE TO CONTINUE THE DIALOG, WE BELIEVE CSG REPRESENTATIVES WERE REASONABLY SATISFIED BY DISCUSSIONS, WHICH GAVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY INTER ALIA, TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS TO THE USG AT AN EARLY STAGE IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S REVIEW OF MARITIME POLICY. CHRISTOPHER

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